

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A system including a storage device having a disk device and a cache memory, a management computer, and a plurality of computers connected to said storage device and classified into a plurality of groups, comprising:

said management computer ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit to said storage device one or more first commands containing information for specifying computers in a first group of computers and an access history identifier for each of the specified computers in said first group;

said storage device ~~for maintaining~~ configured to maintain a plurality of access histories for each computer in the first group of computers wherein, when a computer in said first group of computers specified by said first commands requests data from said storage device, said storage unit records a storage location of the requested data in said disk device as a history that is linked with said access history identifier of said requesting computer specified by said first commands;

said management computer ~~for transmitting~~ configured to transmit to said storage device a second command containing information for specifying one of said computers in said first group of computers and information for specifying a read-ahead access history identifier for said one of said computers, and

wherein, in response to said second command, said storage device reads out data linked with said read-ahead access history identifier from said disk device to said cache memory, and

wherein, after issuing the second command to the storage device, said management computer causes said one of said computers in said first group of computers specified in said second command to start.

11. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 10, wherein said management computer is configured to interact ~~maintains a schedule for interacting with~~ said first group of computers and said storage device according to a schedule, and wherein said management computer transmits said first commands and second command to said storage device based on said schedule.

12-23. (Canceled)

24. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the first commands include activation conditions and wherein the storage device begins recording the history of a requesting computer upon detecting the activation condition corresponding to that requesting computer.

25. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 24, wherein the activation conditions specify an interval during which the history of requesting computers is recorded at the storage device.

26. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 24, wherein the activation conditions specify a time at which the storage device starts recording the history of requesting computers.

27. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the access histories comprise lists of storage locations corresponding to read requests received directly from one or more of said first group of computers by the storage device.

28. (Currently amended) A system according to claim 10, wherein the storage device associates is configured to associate each computer in the first group of computers with its plurality of access histories using a computer identifier.

29. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 28, wherein computer identifiers for the first group of computers change from time to time, and wherein the management computer detects these changes and notifies the storage device of the new identifiers.

30. (Currently amended) A method of operating a storage system comprising:
receiving a first command specifying a target computer, an access history identifier associated with the target computer, and an activation condition;
detecting the activation condition;
selecting an access history from a plurality of access histories associated with the target computer using the access history identifier; and
updating the selected access history with information about data requested by the target computer.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the first command specifies a physical storage device, and wherein the selected access history comprises a list of storage locations corresponding to the physical storage device.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein the first command includes a computer identifier for specifying the target computer, the method further comprising associating the target computer with the plurality of access histories based upon the computer identifier.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising receiving, from time to time, second commands with information for updating the computer identifier of the target computer.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 wherein updating the selected access history further comprises:
receiving a read request from the target computer; and

adding information about the read request to the selected access history if the activation condition is detected.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 34 wherein the activation condition specifies an interval of time, and wherein the selected access history is updated if the read request is received during the specified interval.

36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30 further comprising receiving one or more third commands specifying the target computer and a read-ahead history identifier.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36 further comprising:
selecting a second access history from the plurality of access histories associated with the target computer using the read-ahead history identifier; and
retrieving data from a storage device in accordance with the second access history; and
temporarily storing the data retrieved from the storage in a cache memory accessible to the target computer.